

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13, 15-27 and 29-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9-13, 15-18, 21, 24, 26, 30 and 38 have been amended. Claims 2, 7, 14 and 28 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9-13, 15-18, 21, 24 and 30 have been amended to change "user-defined states" to "user defined qualification states" for antecedent compatibility. Claims 26 and 30 have been amended to change "life cycle states" to "life cycle qualification states" for antecedent compatibility.

The Office Action rejects claims 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,747 to Van Huben, hereafter Van Huben.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite:

"wherein said new qualification state comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system".

Van Huben lacks a control strategy, a controller, a process control system and "a qualification state" that "comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system". Therefore, van Huben does not anticipate independent claims 18 and its dependent claims 19 and 20.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to recite:

“wherein said user defined qualification state for which said modified definition was received comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system”.

Van Huben lacks a control strategy, a controller, a process control system and “a qualification state” that “comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system”. Therefore, Van Huben does not anticipate independent claim 21 and its dependent claims 22 and 23.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite:

“wherein at least one of said user defined qualification states comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system”.

Van Huben lacks a control strategy, a controller, a process control system and “a qualification state” that “comprises an attribute of whether said control strategy is loadable to a controller of said process control system”. Therefore, Van Huben does not anticipate independent claims 24 and its dependent claim 25.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Van Huben is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 26, 27, 29-34 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,885 to Dardinski, hereafter Dardinski, and Van Huben.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner admits that the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski does not disclose “a life cycle process and receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states of said life cycle process”. However, the Examiner contradicts this admission by noting at page 8 that Kauffman discloses “subjecting said object when checked out to a plurality of user-defined states”. Because of this contradiction, Applicant repeats the argument from the Amendment filed in response to the final Office Action dated November 5, 2008 as follows:

“The Examiner contends that Kauffman’s checked-in status and checked-out status are user-defined states. As noted in the amendment filed on August 25, 2008, Kauffman’s check-in and checkout operations are performed by Kauffman’s system to read and write a version of the object in a version control system and not of a life cycle process as claimed in claim 1. In particular, Kauffman does not disclose” a plurality of user-defined states” and “a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of states” of the life cycle process. Kauffman merely discloses check-in and checkout operations for a version of an object.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Kauffman discloses “user-defined states/flags such as ‘checked out and checked in’”, citing Fig. 5A, block 580A and Fig. 6, block 620. The Examiner is contending that Kauffman’s flags correspond to the recited “user defined states”. However, Kauffman’s flags are designed into the system to be set upon check-in and check out. There is no disclosure in Kauffman that the flags are user defined. The Examiner appears to be ignoring the “user defined” adjectives in independent claim 1. To clarify claim 1 and positively recite the user-defined states and user defined transitions, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite:

“receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined states of said life cycle process;
performing said life cycle process on said object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object when checked out to said plurality of user-defined states, each state having attributes”.

Kauffman does not disclose the receiving step in which user defined states and user defined transitions of the life cycle process are received from a user. Moreover, Kauffman does not disclose a life cycle process and, therefore, cannot perform a life cycle process on the object when the object is checked out. Moreover, Kauffman does not provide a change state function for a user to change a current one of the user defined states to a next one of the user defined states of the life cycle process as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Dardinski, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply the above noted deficiencies of Kauffman.”

As noted above, the Examiner admits that the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski does not disclose “ a life cycle process and receiving from a user a plurality of user defined states of said life cycle process”, but contends that Van Huben does, citing Figs. 5A and 5B and column 16, lines 1-41, column 7, lines 13-21, and column 14, lines 36-44.

This contention is erroneous. As pointed out above in Applicant’s argument, the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski also do not disclose “subjecting the checked out object to the plurality of user-defined steps of the life cycle process”. To clarify that the user-defined states are qualification states, independent claim 1 has been amended to change “user-defined states” to “user

defined qualification states”. Independent claim 26 has been amended to change “life cycle states” to “life cycle qualification states”.

Van Huben does not disclose a life cycle process as recited in amended independent claim 1. Van Huben’s tables in Figs. 5A and 5B depict the steps of a promotion algorithm and not the qualification steps of a life cycle process. In other words, Van Huben’s tables show the object statements and not qualification states for qualifying an object pursuant to a life cycle process as recited in amended independent claim 1. Van Huben has no disclosure of a life cycle process that subjects an object to qualification steps as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Van Huben does not supply the deficiency of Kauffman and Dardinski. Thus, amended independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10 and 38 are unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman, Dardinski and Van Huben.

Independent claim 26 has been amended by changing user-defined life cycle states” to “user-defined life cycle qualification states. The Examiner admits (page 12) that the combination of Kauffman and Dardinski does not disclose:

“a life cycle process component executable on said processor to receive from a user a plurality of user-defined life cycle states and to enforce compliance with said user-defined life cycle states”.

The Examiner’s admission omits a portion of the life cycle component recital of independent claim 26. Amended independent claim 26 recites:

“a life cycle process component executable on said processor to receive from a user a plurality of user-defined life cycle qualification states and to enforce compliance with said user-defined life cycle qualification states for at least one object of a control strategy of a plurality of devices of said

process control system, wherein said life cycle process component subjects said object to said user-defined life cycle qualification states”.

The Examiner contends that Van Huben supplies the admitted deficiency, citing in support Fig. 5A and column 16, lines 1-14. This contention is erroneous. Van Huben does not disclose a life cycle process, a life cycle component, or a plurality of user-defined life cycle qualification states as recited in amended independent claim 26. Van Huben's table in Fig. 5A depicts the steps of a promotion algorithm and not the qualification steps of a life cycle process. In other words, Van Huben's table shows the object statements and not qualification states for qualifying an object pursuant to a life cycle process as recited in amended independent claim 26. Van Huben has no disclosure of a life cycle process that subjects an object to qualification steps as recited in independent claim 26. Therefore, Van Huben does not supply the deficiency of Kauffman and Dardinski. Thus, amended independent claim 26 and its dependent claims 27, 29-34, 36 and 37 are unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman, Dardinski and Van Huben.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 26, 27, 29-34 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 5 and 35 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of Dardinski and Van Huben and further in view of Murthy.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. This rejection of claims 5 and 35 is obviated by the amendment to independent claims 1 and 26, from which claims 5 and 35 depend. The combination of Kauffman, Dardinski and Huben lacks recited features of amended independent claims 1 and 26. Murthy, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply these features. Accordingly, the

combination of Kauffman, Dardinski, Van Huben and Murthy also lacks these features.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 5 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauffman in view of Murthy and Van Huben.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite:

“receiving from a user a plurality of user defined qualification states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined qualification states of a life cycle process;
performing said life cycle process on said object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object to said plurality of user-defined qualification states”.

As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben lacks both the receiving step and the performing step of the above recital as neither discloses a life cycle process, qualification states of a life cycle process, receiving the qualification states and performing the life cycle process. Murthy, which was cited for a different purpose, does not supply the deficiencies of the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben. Therefore, the combination of Kauffman, Van Huben and Murthy lacks the receiving and performing steps of the above noted recital. Accordingly, amended independent claim 13 is unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman, Van Huben and Murthy.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite:

“receiving from a user a plurality of user defined qualification states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the plurality of user defined qualification states of a life cycle process;
performing said life cycle process on an object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object to said plurality of user-defined qualification states”.

As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben lacks both the receiving step and the performing step of the above recital as neither discloses a life cycle process, qualification states of a life cycle process, receiving the qualification states and performing the life cycle process. Murthy, which was cited for a different purpose, does not supply the deficiencies of the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben. Therefore, the combination of Kauffman, Van Huben and Murthy lacks the receiving and performing steps of the above noted recital. Accordingly, amended independent claim 15 is unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman, Van Huben and Murthy.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 13 and 15 is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 12, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauffman in view of Van Huben.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite:

“receiving from said user a plurality of definitions of a plurality of user-defined qualification states and a plurality of user defined state transitions

between the plurality of user-defined qualification states of said life cycle process;
performing said life cycle process on said object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object to said plurality of user-defined qualification states”.

As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben lacks both the receiving step and the performing step of the above recital as neither discloses a life cycle process, qualification states of a life cycle process, receiving the qualification states and performing the life cycle process. Accordingly, amended independent claim 11 is unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to recite:

“receiving a request to make a user defined state transition from one of said user defined qualification states to a next one of said user defined qualification states for an object from a user;
performing a life cycle process on an object of a control strategy for a process control system by subjecting said object to said plurality of user-defined qualification states”.

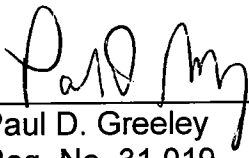
As noted above in the discussion of amended independent claim 1, the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben lacks both the receiving step and the performing step of the above recital as neither discloses a life cycle process, qualification states of a life cycle process, receiving the qualification states and performing the life cycle process. Accordingly, amended independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 16 and 17 are unobvious in view of the combination of Kauffman and Van Huben.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 11, 12, 16 and 17 is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1, 9-13, 15-18, 21, 24, 26, 30 and 38 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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